

## Quoting

There are two types of quotations: **INTEGRATED** and **BLOCK**<sup>1</sup>. Due to the type of writing assigned in AP and pre-AP, you will, for the most part, need to use integrated quotations. An **integrated quote** is a brief passage (one word or phrase from a sentence to perhaps one or two sentences) that you connect grammatically to your own sentence. Always be careful, of course, to show where your source's words begin and end. Eventually you will combine integrated quotations with *parenthetical documentation*, which is simply giving credit to the originator of the quotation (source). Together it looks something like these:

- Abraham Lincoln promised that America would be rebuilt after the Civil War "with malice towards none" (Ward 360).
- Steinbeck uses words like "small" and "sharp" to describe George, while using "huge" and "shapeless" to describe Lennie; the author does this in order to demonstrate a clear contrast between the two men (2).
- Michael Maclear, who spent several years covering the Vietnam War for American television networks, contends that the United States "became a social casualty of the first television war in which, relatively, only the commercials made sense" (ix).

Be aware of the punctuation you use when quoting. If the quotation is formally introduced (especially if written in a complete sentence), the quoted material is preceded by a colon (:). Use a comma after a verb that introduces a quote. Use no punctuation unless necessary if the quotation is an integral part of the sentence structure.<sup>2</sup> Additional examples of integrated quotes with correct punctuation:

- Shelley held a bold view: "Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the World" (794).
- Shelley thought poets "the unacknowledged legislators of the World" (794).
- "Poets," according to Shelley, "are the unacknowledged legislators of the World" (794).<sup>3</sup>
- In Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, the doctor wonders, "How can I describe my emotions at this catastrophe, or how delineate the wretch whom with such infinite pains and care I had endeavoured to form?" (42).<sup>4</sup>
- In "Memories of West Street and Lepke," Robert Lowell, a conscientious objector (or "C.O."), recounts meeting a Jehovah's Witness in prison: " 'Are you a C.O.?' I asked a fellow jailbird. / 'No,' he answered, 'I'm a J.W.' " (38-39).<sup>5</sup>
- In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Dill expresses his feelings about Mr. Gilmer's treatment of Tom Robinson to Scout: " 'It ain't right, somehow it ain't right to do 'em that way. Hasn't anybody got any business talkin' like that – it make me sick' " (Lee 199).<sup>6</sup>
- John Grisham has noted that "The greatest dramas occur not on screens or stages, but daily in countless courtrooms across the country" (ix).

Most of the quoting that you do in brief papers will involve integrated quotes with short passages of prose. Sometimes, however, you may need to quote a source at greater length. When the need arises, make use of a **block quote**: a quote which consists of *more than four lines* of typed text. Use block quotes sparingly (probably not more than once or twice in an average length research paper). An example would look like the following:

In "Memories of West Street and Lepke," Robert Lowell, a conscientious objector (or "C.O."), recounts meeting a Jehovah's Witness in prison:

I was so out of things, I'd never heard  
Of the Jehovah's Witnesses.  
"Are you a C.O." I asked a fellow jailbird.  
"No," he answered, "I'm a J.W." (36-39)<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Much of the information in this handout is from <http://www.siue.edu/~smoiles/quothow.html> at Southern Illinois University.

<sup>2</sup> Punctuation information is from MLA 3.7.7 and <http://www.stfx.ca/resources/writingcentre/Integrating%20Quotations.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> Note the three different examples shown that integrate the same quotation.

<sup>4</sup> If a quotation ending with a question mark or an exclamation point concludes your sentence and requires parenthetical documentation, retain the original punctuation within the quotation mark and follow with the reference and the sentence period outside the quotation.

<sup>5</sup> Use double quotation marks around quotations incorporated into the text and single quotation marks around quotations within those quotations.

<sup>6</sup> Like the previous example, this example shows a quote within a quote. The text spoken by Dill is in quotation marks in the novel and must be reproduced properly.

<sup>7</sup> When using a block quote (a quotation set off from the text), do not use opening and closing quotation marks, but reproduce any quotation marks that are in the passage quoted.